GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:760
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
FOREST BASED PROJECTS
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of the forest-based projects approved by the Union Government during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether some of these projects have been pending since long;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the clearance of these pending projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): So far, 5350 proposals during the last three years from 01.04.2005 to 31.03.2008 and 1529 proposals during the current year from 01.04.2008 to 20.02.2009 involving diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes pertaining to different State / Union Territory Governments have been accorded approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State-wise details are enclosed at annexure.

(b) to (d): As far as feasible,the Central Government takes decision within the time limit prescribed under the Forest (Conservation) Rules,2003 for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. So far, 220 projects out of 5,350 projects approved by the Central Government were delayed during the last four years due to some unavoidable reasons such as directions of the Supreme Court in regard to the channel of submission of projects, delayed site inspections due to non-availability of officers in the Regional offices of the Ministry etc.These constraints have, however, now been taken care of to a large extent during the current year.